

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Title of Application

In Applicant's Response to the Office Action mailed March 12, 2004, and filed on June 8, 2004, Applicant requested the title of the application be changed from **"GENERAL REMOTE TRANSLATOR"** to **"GENERAL REMOTE USING SPOKEN COMMANDS."** It appears that the USPTO has not acknowledged Applicant's request and the title has not been changed. Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner change the USPTO records to reflect the title **"GENERAL REMOTE USING SPOKEN COMMANDS."**

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 15, 17-18, and 22-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 17 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 8, and 17.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 17 have been amended to clarify that the content of the command signal displayed on the user interface corresponds "to an alpha-numeric representation of the non-trivial voice command." Support for this amendment may be

found, for example, in paragraph [0032] of the instant specification. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 15, 17-18, and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,606,280 (“Knittel”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,345 (“Kuhn”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended, previously presented, and original claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent amended claim 1 recites a voice-translating remote control system. More specifically, the voice-translating remote control system includes a microphone operable to receive a nontrivial voice command and output a nontrivial voice signal, an audio transmitter operably connected to the microphone to transmit an audio input signal to a host system based on the nontrivial voice signal, a signal receiver arranged to receive a command signal transmitted by the host system, a signal transmitter operably connected to the signal receiver to transmit a control signal to an appliance based on the command signal, and a user interface configured to display contents of the command signal *wherein the contents of the command signal corresponds to an alpha-numeric representation of the non-trivial voice command.*

As described in the specification, the command signal is generated by the voice-recognition processor using the audio input signal received from the remote control. The command signal may include information about the identity of the appliance to be controlled and the command to be sent to the appliance. (Instant specification, paragraph [0024]). The user interface, as recited in amended independent claim 1, is configured to

display the contents of the command signal, *wherein the contents of the command signal corresponds to an alpha-numeric representation of the non-trivial voice command*. As described in the specification, displaying of the contents of the command refers to *visually* displaying the contents of the command signal in a manner that the user may acknowledge the command and/or make the necessary corrections to the command (which is embodied in the command signal) prior to issuing the command to the appliance. (Instant specification, paragraph [0032]).

Turning to the rejection, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness “...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.” (See MPEP §2143.03). Further, “all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” (See MPEP §2143.03). The Applicant respectfully asserts that the references, when combined, fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 17.

Specifically, the Examiner has admitted that Knittel does not teach (i) using a non-trivial voice command and (ii) a user interface configured to display the contents of the command signal. (See Office Action mailed June 2, 2005, p. 4). The Applicant respectfully asserts that Kuhn does not teach that which Knittel lacks.

Kuhn teaches a remote control system which includes functionality to use voice-recognition. Further, the remote control disclosed by Kuhn includes a display (Kuhn, 16 in Figure 1). However, the display described in Kuhn is *only* configured to “supply prompts to the user as well as information extracted from the electronic program guide.” (Kuhn, col. 2, ll. 50-59). The purpose of the aforementioned prompts is to “elicit further information from the user, to help the natural language parser find program offerings the

user may be interest in.” (Kuhn, col. 4, ll. 46-49). Thus, the prompts supplied to the user do not correspond to “an alpha-numeric representation of the non-trivial voice command” rather, the prompts in Kuhn correspond to questions presented to the user to aid the system disclosed in Kuhn to determine what program the user wants to see, etc. Further, there is no indication in Kuhn that the user’s response to the prompts corresponds to an alpha-numeric representation of the non-trivial voice command as recited in the claims; rather, the user’s response to the prompts results in the system parsing the voice-command and performing the action without any mention of first displaying an alpha-numeric representation of the command to the user prior to performing the action. (Kuhn, col. 3, ll. 19-36).

Thus, Kuhn does not teach or suggest displaying the contents of the command signal, wherein the contents of the command signal correspond to an alpha-numeric representation of the non-trivial voice command, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

In view of the above, Knittel and Kuhn, whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the claims as amended. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Knittel and Kuhn. In addition, amended independent claims 8, 15, and 17 include the same patentable subject matter as amended claim 1 and, thus, are patentable as well. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Knittel and Kuhn, whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a remote control including a user interface, where the *remote control*

includes functionality to modify the contents of the command signal as recited in claims 22-25. Specifically, because Knittel and Kuhn fail to disclose displaying an alphanumeric representation of the non-trivial voice command, it follows that Knittel and Kuhn do not teach or suggest any mechanism to modify the displayed command signal. Accordingly, claims 22-25 are allowable over Knittel and Kuhn for this additional reason.

Claims 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knittel and Kuhn, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,467 (“Salazar”). As noted above, independent claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, has been amended. Further, independent claim 8, from which claim 9 depends, has been amended. Thus, to the extent that this rejection still applies, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

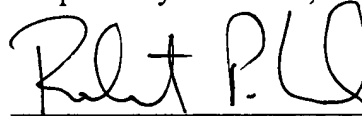
As discussed above, Knittel and Kuhn do not teach or suggest all the limitations recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8. Further, the Applicant respectfully asserts that Salazar does not teach that which Knittel and Kuhn lack. This is evidenced by the fact that Salazar is only relied upon to teach “the user interface is an liquid crystal display.” (*See* Office Action mailed June 2, 2005, p. 11). Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Knittel, Kuhn, and Salazar. Further, dependent claims 6 and 9 are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/090001; P5702).

Date: August 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Lord", written over a horizontal line.

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